

REMARKS

By way of the present reply and amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 14, 30, and 33. The Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13, 17-21, 26-29, and 32 without prejudice. Claims 15, 16, and 23 are submitted in their original form. Claims 22 and 31 are submitted as previously amended and claims 24 and 25 are submitted as previously added. No new matter has been included. Thus, claims 14-16, 24, 25, 30, 31, and 33 are currently pending in the application

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 22 and 23 and the recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 14-16, 24, 25, 30, 31, and 33.

This Amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed description of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments are made to comply with requirements of form, and thus may be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(a).

The use of the trademarks Dacron and Kevlar is noted in the Office Action. The Examiner has suggested that Dacron and Kevlar should be capitalized wherever they appear and be accompanied by the generic terminology. In response and in order to respect the proprietary nature of the marks, Applicant has amended the specification to further identify DACRON and KEVLAR as trademarks by recognizing them as registered trademarks of du Pont de Nemours and Company.

The Examiner has further noted that claim 27 contains the trademark/trade names Kevlar and Dacron. The Examiner has objected to the scope of the claim as being uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used to properly identify any particular material or product and thus, the claim is not in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Since claim 27 has been cancelled, the objection is moot.

Claims 1, 3, 13, 21, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagai 6,411,834. Claims 1, 2, 13, 21, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vogel et al. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 13, 21, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schaenzer. Claims 4 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai '834 in view of KenKnight et al. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaenzer in view of Yang et al. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaenzer. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai '834 in view of Nagai et al. 6,143,150. Claims 17-20 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai '834 in view of Ward et al. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13, 17-21, 26-29, and 32 without prejudice and thus, the rejections in relation to them are moot.

Claims 14-16, 24, 25, and 30-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base. The Examiner has noted that they will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14, 30, and 33 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, the Applicant believes that claims 14, 30, and 33 are now in allowable form. Claims 15 and 25 are dependant on claim 14, claims 16 and 24 are dependant on claim 15, and claim 31 is dependent on claim 30. As such, the Applicant believes that claims 14-16, 24, 25, and 30-33 are now in allowable form.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that further modifications are required to place the application in allowable form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

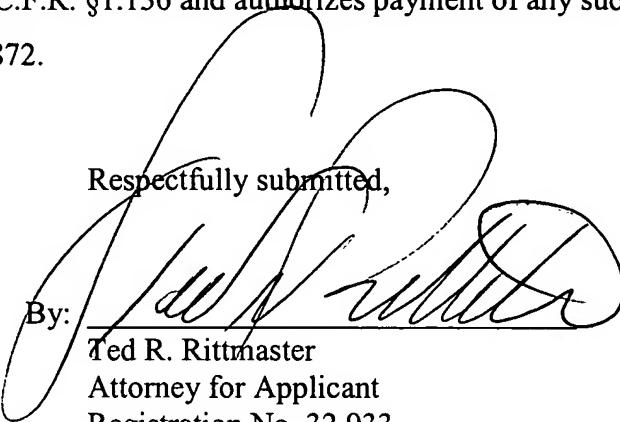
Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the

Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

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Respectfully submitted,

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